

News Briefs

Avila College • 11901 Wornall Rd. • Kansas City, Missouri 64145 • March 30, 2000 • Vol. VIII, Issue 8

Graduation Applications

Graduation applications for Dec. 2000 candidates are due in the Registrar's Office by April 28.

Academic Advising

Advising for the summer and fall 2000 semesters began March 27 and will continue through May 5. Individual appointments must be made with advisers.

Registration

Registration for the summer and fall 2000 semesters will begin on April 10 and continue through April 14 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Registrar's Office.

Metropolis

Avila College will present the Alloy Orchestra's live accompaniment to the 1928 classic Fritz Lang film, *Metropolis* on Friday, May 5 at 7 p.m. at the Englewood Theater. Tickets cost \$7.50 for Avila students. Contact Ben Meade at Ext. 2346 for more information.

Spring Formal

The Spring Formal will be held on April 15 at 8 p.m. at Drexel Hall, located at 31st and Baltimore. Admission is free.

Computer Labs Re-Opened

The computer labs are now open. The Residence Hall Association has installed new locks. Each floor has a separate code. To obtain a code, please see the RA or contact the Student Life Office at Ext. 2260.

Annual Health Fair

On Monday, April 17, the Avila Student Nurses are holding the Annual Health Fair. Junior and senior nursing students will provide educational materials, techniques to relieve stress and referrals on various health-related topics. Everyone is welcome.

Avila Choir

The Avila Choir is seeking new voices for its ranks. The choir meets from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday in the McKeon Room, located on the first floor of Goppert Theater. The choir will hold a concert on May 7, 2000 at 4 p.m. in Goppert Theater.

Football Open Forum

Those with questions and concerns about football may get them answered at 12:30 p.m. April 6 in the Quad.

New Talon Staff Needed

The Talon, Avila College's student newspaper, is on a quest to find candidates to staff the publication. All positions need to be filled for the 2000-2001 school year, including Editor-in-Chief, page editors, writers and production managers. Contact Steve Iliff at Ext. 2363 for more information.

Admissions Counselors' Chat

From 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. April 6, Avila Admissions Counselors will be hosting a live forum to answer questions concerning the admissions procedure, as well as general information about the college. More information can be found on the Avila College website (www.avila.edu).

THE TALON



Photograph by: Denise Bradshaw

Gordon opens doors

Interim president hears student voices

by ERIC FINDLAY

Staff Writer

Acting president Tom Gordon is taking an open door slant to his duties.

He has open door hours from 4-5 p.m. every Wednesday for anyone who wishes to talk to him.

"Students are the most important people on campus, and we want to educate them. All efforts are channeled to their purpose, and I want to reassure them of their primary importance to me and the administration," he said.

Gordon is Avila's attorney, but has been acting president this semester while Larry Kramer, Avila's president, is on

sabbatical.

Gordon took a leave of absence from attorney duties to fill the president position, beginning January 15.

During his period as interim president, Gordon has become involved in the campus community. He spent one night living in the dorms to see what life was like in the residence halls.

"I would like to see more of a group expression of religious faith of the community. In college, no matter what faith, it should be an opportunity to enliven the relationship with God," Gordon said.

"I would like to see a re-dedication to making this campus an intellectual and cultural center for expression and exchange of ideas," Gordon said. "To make it happen, there must be a sense of unity, so we can all come together for events."

"He definitely has a good sense of humor and a caring attitude towards the students," Karen Jannaman, executive assistant to the president, said.

"I am as equally frustrated about this as the students are," Alicia Hoffman, director of resident life and orientation, said.

The first time the vandalism occurred, the Residence Hall Association (RHA) paid for the damages. However, the second time it occurred, only the floors with the vandalism were billed for the damages and repairs.

Over spring break, individual keypad locks were installed on the doors to all of the computer rooms on each floor. Every keypad has its own code.

"By doing it this way, we are still allowing 24-hour access to the computers, without having to leave the doors unlocked all the time," Hoffman said.

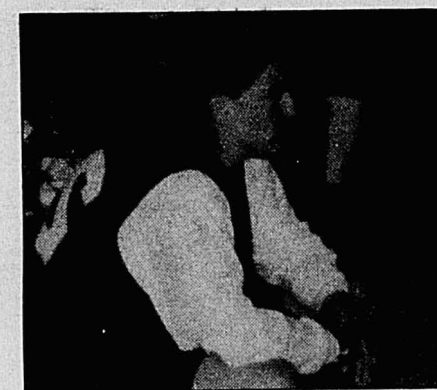
Students in the residence halls wishing to use the computers on the individual floors should go to their resident assistant (RA) or to The Student Life Office to obtain the code.

The student will sign a form so the school knows when and at what time students use the computers on that floor.



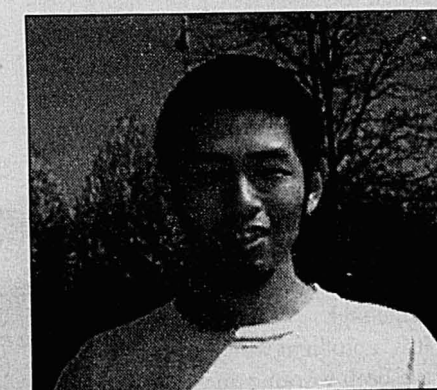
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Fashion Sense Two Times Over



PAGE SEVEN

Softball



PAGE TWELVE

Photo Finish

Muhammed Ali brings hope to inner city

by **TEKIA THOMPSON**
Staff Writer

Ooohs and ahhs filled the Kansas City Convention Center on Feb. 23.

The main event of the evening featured "the century's greatest athlete" Muhammad Ali.

Two hundred children from the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Kansas City settled into their ringside seats for the knockout event of the year.

"Kids Night Out 2000" was a private patrons' party sponsored by the Ford Motor Company along with other big names such as Hallmark, Coca-Cola and Sprint.

The benefit included cocktails, dinner and a live auction.

The live auction raised over \$25,000 while ticket sales generated over \$50,000.

Before Ali arrived, guests were entertained with media coverage of his greatest boxing matches. Patrons also had the chance to purchase Ali memorabilia.

"Ding ding ding...let's get ready to

rumble," William Jackson, master of ceremonies, said.

The lights dimmed in the dining hall, and all heads turned to the big screen centered in the middle of the room.

"He was the greatest. The man who put the thrilla in manilla," actor-comedian Billy Crystal said. His speech was prerecorded for the night's event.

Selected children from the Boys and Girls Club walked into the dining hall, lining the center aisle, and holding makeshift torches waiting to welcome Ali.

"Ladies and gentlemen, the athlete of the century, Muhammad Ali," the announcer said. The crowd parted like the Red Sea, and Ali emerged from the shadows, with his wife Lonnie.

His beaming smile overshadowed the constant shaking of his body caused by Parkinson's disease.

"Ali...Ali...Ali," the crowd chanted.

The audience stood in standing ovation as Ali mounted the stage, acknowledging everyone with a wave. Children and adults sat in awe as Ali's wife discussed recent events in his life, including his health.

Ali seemed to impact two very distinctive groups that evening: those who remembered and those who would never forget.

Avila spirit squad is coming soon

by **MOLLY KENNEDY**
Staff Writer

The Eagle's Spirit Squad is new and improved and on its way to Avila's campus.

Cindy Freeman, coordinator for the Spirit Squad, signed Jennifer Hough, an incoming freshman from Butler High School, as the first member of the dance team.

Hough will be attending Avila on the Missouri Bright Flight scholarship. She plans to major in nursing.

Cindy Freeman, spirit squad coordinator, plans on having a squad of 12-18 members for the dance team next year. Over a three-year period, a Pom Squad and a co-ed Cheerleading Squad will be implemented to complete the entire Spirit Squad.

"No matter how many girls are recruited, we want as many students who are already on campus to participate," Freeman said. "Everyone will get a fair shake and a fair chance."

"What is really important to me is that the girls are really having fun when they

perform," Freeman said.

The Spirit Squad will be a year-round activity. Members will be performing for volleyball, soccer, basketball and football. Baseball and softball games will be opportunities for the team to act as Ambassadors for the school.

Squad members do have to fulfill eligibility requirements like every other sport. The Heart of America Conference is meeting to discuss the possibility of adding competitive dance as a varsity letter sport.

"The Spirit Squad will create a fun intercollegiate atmosphere for the school," Freeman said. "The athletes are really excited."

For those who are interested, a clinic style try-out will be held at 9:00 a.m. on May 6 in the gym.

The clinic will include various stations for a pom routine, a funk-style dance, a lyrical, modern dance, some cheering and tumbling and stunt building. The gym will be closed during the three to four hour clinic.

The coordinators and coaches will be looking for how quickly routines can be picked up, personality, attitudes and individual interviews that might be conducted.

Contact Cindy Freeman Ext. 2234 for more information.

"No matter how many girls are recruited, we want as many students who are already on campus to participate. Everyone will get a fair shake and a fair chance."
-Freeman said.

Phone lines lead to breakdown

by **JEREMIAH MURPHY**
Staff Writer

A mechanical voice pierces through the hollow night like a warm steak knife through soft butter.

"We're sorry; if you would like to make a call, please hang up and try again." This voice is heard every day in the dorm rooms of Avila College.

Avila College has had problems with its phone lines. The college has only 18 phone lines going in and out of circulation. Just recently, the problem has escalated with the expansion of the new departments and their new phone line extensions.

With these new extensions, plus the 18, it makes the problem more complicated.

The hardest time for students to make calls off campus is between the peak hours of 7 and 9 p.m. Outside calls are not transmitted through to the dorms, as well.

"If something important happens at home, I would like to know about it and not have to wait for the lines to be clear," said Tyler Barr, a dorm resident.

"The Admissions Office has the same problem. Most incoming calls will be transferred to the operator," Lisa Levine said.

It is a problem we have been working on for a long time, but we have too many students and faculty members for

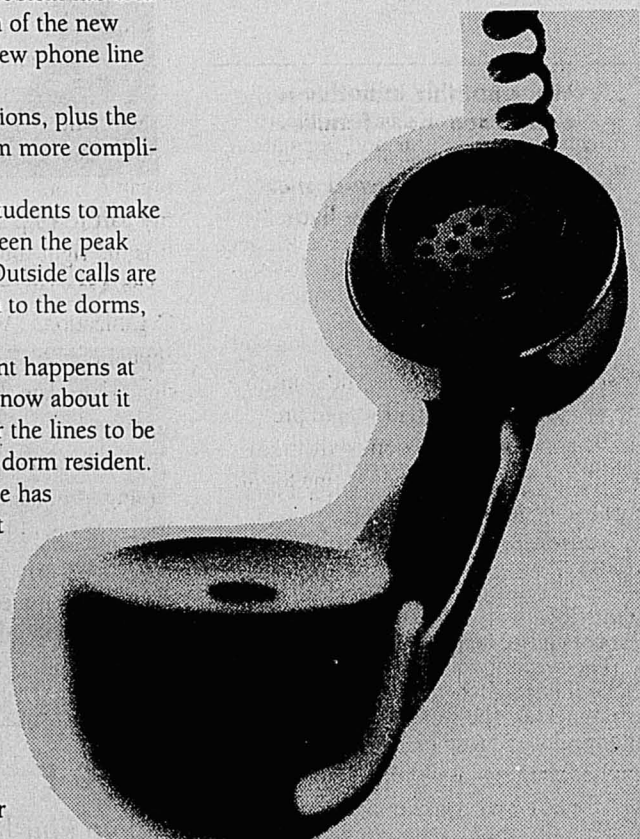
the amount of lines that we have," Levine said.

Avila has made efforts to fix the problem. Sprint has come to the campus several times and has not found an answer yet.

According to Levine, the issue is money. Sprint could come in at anytime and add new lines, but Avila does not have enough resources to pay for them, Lavine said.

"I find it extremely irritating to hear the busy signal almost every time I pick up the phone to call off campus," Jen Orzel, an Avila dorm resident, said.

There is a plan in the future to put in new phone lines, although no specific date has been set yet.



The U.S. presidential race commences

by **KIMBERLY BRIM**
Staff Writer

The race is on for a new United States president.

The four main candidates running for president are George W. Bush and John McCain for the Republican ticket and Al Gore versus Bill Bradley for the Democratic ticket.

According to *The Kansas City Star*, Bradley gave up the race. He officially dropped out March 9, at a news conference, and joined in supporting Gore for president.

The Presidential Campaign Rhetoric 2000 quoted Al Gore as saying, "I am campaigning like an underdog." Gore fought twice as hard and in the Super Tuesday primaries he trampled over Bradley, according to *The Kansas City Star*.

The Kansas City Star noted that Gore received 936 delegates, giving him a

total of 1,418. He needs 2,170 to win the nomination.

At the same time, Bradley received 349 delegates, making an overall total of 406. Bradley is a Missouri native, but did not receive much support from Missouri voters.

Missouri voters instead favored Bush. From the state of Missouri, Bush received 35 delegates. He obtained all 162 in California, 67 of the 101 in New York, and 103 out of 154 delegates in the state of Georgia.

Based on *The Kansas City Star*, Bush ended up with 617 delegates while McCain only had 231. A lot of younger students at Avila were not a part of those numbers, including Adriane Cook, a freshman at Avila.

"I really did not know about it until I showed up that day", Cook said.

The crowd of voters who participated by voting downstairs in O'Riely, appeared older and over the age of 21.

"I did not want to sit back and be upset in the end when I had the chance to vote for someone who could be president," Kim Warren a 26 year old student at Avila, said.

"Media makes us feel like our vote does not count, even though it does," freshman Jamie Cox said.

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Faith "circle that keeps expanding"

by YENI MONTERROZA
Staff Writer

Candles, incense, statues and old-world charm are the sights that welcome visitors into the Avila College Chapel. It is also the trafficway for Avila College students and campus ministry to be closer to God.

The topic of expanding campus ministry has come up and Stephen Huber, supervisor of campus ministry, thinks it is a good idea.

"There are two important reasons for expanding campus ministry," Huber said. "One is to teach awareness and what we have to offer, and to let everyone know we have a great program with many opportunities and better access to prayer and religious life."

Campus ministry focuses on the development of the whole person, both heart and body, according to Huber.



Photograph by: Denise Bradshaw

"Campus ministry takes care of the heart and Avila classrooms take care of the body and mind."

Campus ministry offers this specifically through retreat, prayer services, and positive experience of faith.

Campus ministry consists of two

groups; the Barley team and the campus in its entirety. The Barley Team has four members who plan the masses, retreats, prayers and community service.

The campus can get involved by attending masses and events such as the Ash Wednesday and Easter services.

"I see the need for expansion because we need a narrow focus in life. Mix prayer with learning and incorporate this into everyday life," Huber said.

Organ donors make the grade

by SHIRLEY PHILLIPS
Staff Writer

"As I looked at them I asked myself, 'Did one little body do all of this?' The answer is yes, he did. He had saved all those people from the devastation we faced.

"Most families, I think, do not realize as we did not at the time what a mighty gift they have in their hand when called on to make a decision about donation.

"Yet few people will ever have the chance to change the world as much as they can at that moment," writes Reg Green in *The Nicholas Effect*.

Michael Cisneros, Sr. knows about the gift of receiving a donated organ. He has received two kidney transplants, one from his mother and the other from his son, Michael Cisneros, Jr.

When the elder Cisneros was in high school, he and a friend began horsing around after school one Friday. They were punching each other in the stomach to see who was the toughest. They were getting tired. Cisneros turned just as his friend John threw his last punch. That punch landed on Cisneros' left kidney.

That night he started hurting and he began to have blood in his urine. Cisneros said he remembers clearly

going to see Dr. Ozar that Saturday morning.

He said, "Dr. Ozar went over to talk to my parents after examining me. I remember my mother started to cry."

What the doctor discovered upon examination was that he had an oversized left kidney that had compensated for the lack of a right kidney. He underwent several operations over several years to correct the problems associated with the oversized kidney.

In 1983, his kidney began to fail and he needed a transplant. His mother was his first donor. "She insisted on it," Cisneros said. "And my mother was not somebody you said no to."

He managed to keep his donated kidney healthy for 14 years. He contracted a severe viral infection and the kidney was damaged. A nurse suggested that he place his name on the list to receive a new kidney from an organ donor. He just simply refused. He felt if his time was up, then it was up.

At the time a second kidney was needed, Cisneros Jr. was in high school at Bishop Miege, the same school his father had attended.

The younger Cisneros was doing a report for school on organ donation and approached his father's nephrologist, Dr. Muther, about being the donor.

The elder Cisneros says that he has been taking Michael with him on video shoots since he was very young. They work together today at Video Pros in Shawnee Mission, Kan.

The younger Cisneros says he has posted his name on websites where people can e-mail him with questions or

concerns about the transplant process.

Father and son are talking about writing a book about their experiences as a resource for others who are facing the same situation.

In 1996, approximately 4,000 people died while waiting for some form of an organ transplant. That number is up from about 1,500 in 1988, according to the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

On Dec. 15, 1997, Vice President Al Gore and HHS Secretary, Donna E. Shalala launched a National Organ and

"We want this initiative to encourage more families to have these dialogues to understand their loved ones' wishes and help save lives."

Tissue Donation Initiative. The continuing purpose of the initiative is to provide a noticeable reduction in the number of Americans who die waiting for an organ transplant.

The HHS found in their study of organ donors in 1996 that of the estimated 10,000 to 15,000 deaths in the US, only 5,500 cadaver donors were available. Only 32 percent of families agreed to donate organs, 36 percent denied consent for donation, and 27 percent of the families were not asked if they would like to make an organ donation.

One of the main objectives of the ini-

tiative is to emphasize to those who would like to become an organ donor that they share that information with their family members. Vice President Al Gore said, "We want this initiative to encourage more families to have these dialogues to understand their loved one's wishes and help save lives."

According to the Coalition on Donation, one donor will help more than 50 people in need. One body can provide one heart or two heart valves, two lungs, two kidneys, one liver, one pancreas, two hip joints, six ear bones, two corneas, ligaments, tendons and cartilage and skin.

Recently, Michael Jordan joined the advertising campaign for the Coalition on Donation. He has said, "Many lives could be saved if more people became organ donors. That is why I am doing my part to help in this important effort. It is the right thing to do."

The Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO), reported that on September 24, 1999, President Clinton signed into law the Organ Donor Leave Act.

This law allows federal employees serving as organ donors to receive up to 30 days of paid leave in addition to sick or annual leave. This law was intended to set an example for the private sector and state governments to follow.

National Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness week is April 16 through 22.

Tiff-Notes



The "good old days" made anew

Understanding the life of our relationships

by TIFFANY LEIGH BRATTON

Editor-in-Chief

My family used to talk about the "good old days" when I was a child. Everyone smiled and gently parted their lips while a glassy gaze filled their eyes. They appeared to drift into another world when they described the details of each other's lives.

The tattered pages of family picture

albums and worn-out spindles of super eight films reflected a reality unlike the one I knew. That is because the junction between the "good old days" and the present happened the day I was born.

In some ways, the conclusion of the past was initiated by my behavior; I was a demanding child. My continuous need to take doorknobs apart or wander off in stores helped my mother's first gray hairs appear around her scalp.

But the end of the "good old days" was largely marked by the reality of a new era of family life.

My sister is nine years older than me. On the day of my birth, her "only child" status was permanently revoked. That day, her pedestal crumbled, and a phase of sibling rivalry and one-upmanship emerged.

I remember when I was five I thought my sister was a goddess. Her parties, friends, room and aesthetic tastes were

all examined by my kindergarten mind. I longed to be just like her. And she was offended by that. Her aversion resulted in moments of tears while screams of "it's not fair" flowed from my lips.

Today, my sister and I have developed a closeness that was impossible during our hair-pulling, name-calling plights of yesteryear. Now that we are adults, we have developed a bond that carries with it the charge of love, friendship and understanding.

This contradictory reality of sisterhood has subtly taught me the meaning of relationships. Each person is connected to those around him or her, influencing and helping to create reality and life experiences for each other.

Whatever the past was like, however it was shaped and whatever forms it took, the present is its offshoot.

Yet almost paradoxically, the present has the power to rewrite the messages of the past while developing the world of

tomorrow.

This moment, right now, is like a gift that points out possibilities for our lives.

Ultimately, how we view and interact with those around us will guide our existence and define our perceptions.

I have discovered, for example, that each time a new life is born into my family, the resultant changes and newly-created relationships carry the blessings of love, joy and meaning. I literally find myself wondering, "How did we ever live without this child?"

My family confirms the same reaction. Life changes the past, marking the end of eras and the beginning of new, joyous experiences of family ties.

The "good old days" therefore never end; they are merely replaced by better days.

EXERCISE YOUR VOICE



Unexpected tests of faith, unexpected miracles

by SARAH LaFONTE

Opinions Editor

"Life is too short for regrets." It is so easy to say, and so difficult to live by.

It's amazing how one event can change the way you look at everything. In a split second, I realized how vital my friends are and how I didn't appreciate that enough.

Starting my senior year of high school, my circle of friends began to change and one new addition made was a guy

named Shawn.

He was a pretty shy guy, very soft-spoken and very sweet. He towered above our group, standing about 4 or 5 inches above the rest of us, and quickly became our gentle giant.

I learned quickly how easy he was to talk to and just how compassionate and understanding he could be.

We became close friends that year; he even ventured to try to teach me how to two-step. We remained close after graduation, and I still consider him one of the best friends I have.

In November, Shawn called to tell me he had just signed to transfer to the University of North Texas on a full football scholarship. The excitement in his voice was unmistakable.

He hadn't been happy at Coffeyville Community College, and he couldn't wait to start over.

We made plans for me to come visit him once he got down there. I was going to go down and he was going to show me around Texas, and when football season rolled around, we were going to go to a Dallas Cowboys game.

The last time I spoke with Shawn was Valentine's Day. He sent me a Valentine via e-mail and we traded e-mails for the next week or two. Then, on February 27, I got the e-mail that made me look at life in a whole new way.

I got an e-mail from another high

school friend telling me that Shawn was in the hospital. At first, I thought he had just been injured, but as I read along I realized how serious things were.

Shawn was in a football game the night before and collapsed toward the end of the game.

By the time they got him to the hospital, one of his lungs had collapsed and his brain was swelling dangerously. They removed a section of his skull to release the pressure and to alleviate chances of brain damage.

By the time I got the news, the doctors were giving him less than 24 hours to live. He developed a blood infection and had intravenous antibiotics. His parents couldn't even touch him out of fear of worsening or complicating the infection.

The next few weeks seemed very surreal. I couldn't seem to grasp the idea of life without Shawn.

I didn't realize what an impact all the little things he did made in my life. Whether it was a note to say "hi", or surprising me at work just to talk, I relished everything I could remember.

There were countless people praying for Shawn, and I e-mailed him nearly everyday. His coaches would check his e-mail and his parents would read it to him twice a day. While he was not improving, he beat all the doctor's diagnoses and remained in a coma for nearly four weeks.

The swelling in his brain had gone down, and his infection was clearing up.

A few of my friends from high school went to see him over their spring break, and out of the blue, with no warning at all, Shawn woke up from his coma.

He recognized our friends and was slowly, but surely, able to talk to them. He told them his parents had been reading him all the e-mails people had sent him. And a few days ago, I got another e-mail that made my heart jump.

Shawn wrote me back. He thanked me for my faith in him, and he wanted me to know that he loved every e-mail I sent him.

Just like that, all the weeks of worry and fear seemed to disappear. I had my friend back.

It is going to be a while until he is back on his feet, and he will most likely never play football again, but right now none of that matters.

I'll still be able to hug him, and get a kiss on the forehead when he says goodbye. And who knows? One of these days, we might actually get to go to that Cowboys game.

Mel's Minute's



by **MELANIE SCHMITTLING**
Associate Editor

Lately I have noticed a significant number of people parking in restricted areas around the campus. It almost seems that the same people are doing it over and over again.

I am referring to the two visitor spaces in front of Blasco Hall and the other various handicapped spaces located around campus.

It is my understanding that visitor parking and handicapped parking are to

be kept vacant for exactly what they state: persons visiting the school and persons with disabilities who are allowed to park there. That's it.

I mean, think about it. When you park your vehicle sporting an Avila College window sticker displayed in your back window in a visitor parking space at 8:07 a.m., jump out with your backpack in tote and run into Borserine, it is obvious. Yes, I am talking about you, and you know who you are; it is obvious that you are a student, not a visitor!

We have plenty of parking around this campus specifically for the students' vehicles to occupy. Currently, there is not a parking problem on this campus. Half of the spaces are usually empty in the loop in front of Blasco and Goppert Theater.

We should all be more thankful that there is no parking fee required to park in the lots made so graciously available to the students. The majority of colleges require paid parking tags or stickers to

park for each semester. Isn't it nice that we get to park for free?

"Visitor parking is meant for visitors to the institution. Hopefully students will respect why these spots exist," Joe Deighton, vice president and dean for student affairs, said.

Currently, the school has authorized personnel to issue tickets to these violators. But they cannot get them all. Deighton also said that the school is also looking into hiring a work study student to monitor the parking lots in the future.

The Avila College Student Handbook states that: "Free parking is provided for all members of the college community and their guests."

"No parking" and handicapped parking areas are to be observed at all times. Violations may result in a parking citation or the vehicle being towed at the owner's expense.

If cited for a parking violation, a parking citation will be placed on the vehicle

and a record of the violation will be kept in the Student Life Office."

First, students will get a warning; the second and third warnings will cost a \$10 fine and the fourth warning will cost \$30. The fifth warning will result with the vehicle being towed at the owner's expense.

Temporary handicapped parking passes are available from disability services in student affairs located in Marian Center.

Don't continue to take away a handicapped person's chance at parking closer to their destination or a perspective student's opportunity to explore our campus just because you woke up late or forgot to get gas the night before.

So, if you are a student who continues to park in the visitor parking or handicapped spaces, you better be on the lookout because more and more people are starting to notice, and it won't be long before you will be forced to pay to park on this campus.

Dear Editor of The Talon:

This letter is in response to Amy Young's article, published in the February 10 issue of *The Talon*. In this article she comments on the definition of "sexual assault" in Avila's sexual harassment policy, which is "any physical contact of a sexual nature, which occurs by force or coercion, or which is directed at a person who is mentally impaired or incapacitated."

She then questions the meaning of the term "incapacitation," suggesting that both parties could be "incapacitated" and together make a foolish choice." In addition, she suggests that the policy provides an easy way for women to falsely "cry rape."

I find Young's stance disturbing for several reasons.

First, her interpretation of "incapacitation" is inaccurate. Although Avila's policy does not specifically define "incapacitated," this word is generally defined as a state of being in which a person lacks physical or intellectual power. Incapacitation typically does not occur after a few drinks. A person who is incapacitated because of excessive alcohol consumption is unable to make any type of decision or to consciously participate in a sexual act.

Thus, it is not possible for two incapacitated people to have sex.

Also, it is not physically possible for an incapacitated male to have an erection, making intercourse impossible.

The second issue that I find troubling is that Young implies that women often "cry rape" when it is unjustified. She states, "The bottom line is that waking up the next day and deciding to scream rape for something you enjoyed the

night before is wrong."

Young's conclusions are incongruent with research on acquaintance rape.

For example:

1. It is estimated that only one in 10 women who experience date rape actually report it (cited in *Outlook* published by the American Association of University Women, Spring, 2000).

2. A 1999 study published in *Violence Against Women* compared women who were raped by physical force when sober to women who were raped when they were too intoxicated to resist. Both groups of women acknowledged having an experience that fit the legal definition of rape; however, only one of the 30 women who were intoxicated during the experience labeled their experience as a "rape."

3. Denise Snyder, Executive Director of a Rape Crisis Center in Washington D.C., states: "One of the things that has always amazed me is the strength of the myth of the false rape report, even though FBI statistics show the false report rate is no higher than for any other crime...But with the rape victim, there is an assumption that she is lying."

"The survivor finds herself either put on trial or dragged through the mud...I can think many reasons a woman would not want to report, but very few reasons why she would make a false report."

The image Young projects of women falsely "crying rape" perpetuates the myth that rape survivors "really wanted it." It also silences sexual assault survivors, forcing them to live with their experiences of being violated with shame and secrecy.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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The Talon encourages letters to the editor. Letters should be typed and must include the writer's signature, name, address, and telephone number for verification. Letters can be mailed to *The Talon* Editor, Avila College, 11901 Wornall Road, Kansas City, Mo. 64143 or may also be submitted via e-mail at Talon@mail.avila.edu. Please keep letters to 500 words or less. *The Talon* reserves the right to edit letters for reasons of space, clarity, or inappropriate language.



Women's Basketball quarterfinals

1999 MCAC champion, College of the Ozarks receives first round bye

- | | |
|---|-------|
| (2) Newman University defeats (7) York College | 79-60 |
| (3) Avila College defeats (6) St. Mary College | 57-47 |
| (4) Bartlesville Wesleyan defeats (5) College of St. Mary | 58-54 |

semi-finals

- | | |
|---|-------|
| (1) College of the Ozarks defeats (4) Bartlesville Wesleyan | 81-68 |
| (2) Avila College defeats (3) Newman University | 57-55 |

final

- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) College of the Ozarks defeats (3) Avila College | |
|---|--|

Men's Basketball quarterfinals

1999 MCAC champion, Newman University, receives first round bye

- | | |
|---|--------|
| (2) College of the Ozarks defeats (7) York College | 109-88 |
| (3) St. Mary College defeats (6) Avila College | 84-54 |
| (5) Bellevue University defeats (4) Bartlesville Wesleyan | 68-67 |

semi-finals

- | | |
|--|-------|
| (1) Newman University defeats (5) Bellevue University | 95-68 |
| (3) St. Mary College defeats (2) College of the Ozarks | 89-73 |

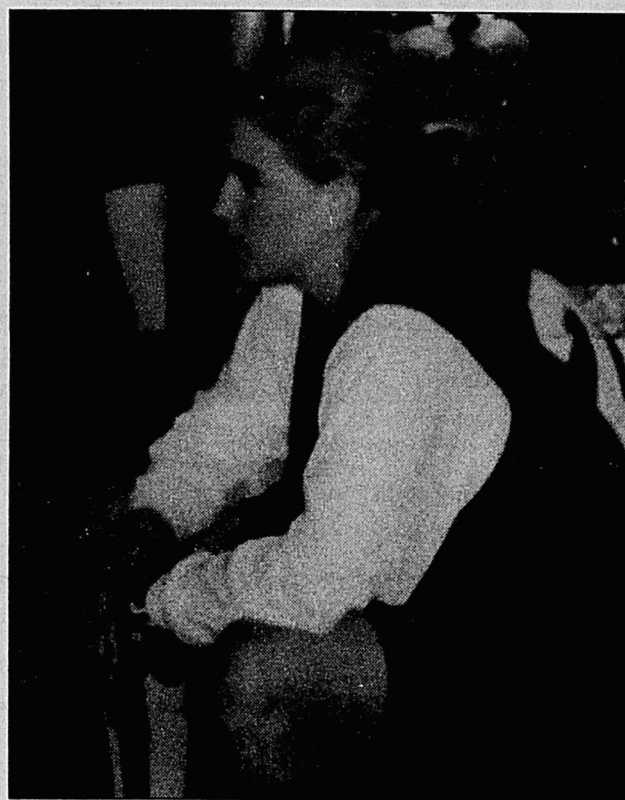
final

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|--|-------|
| (1) Newman University defeats (3) St. Mary College | 79-75 |
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Catcher Brad Cowling follows the path of the ball.

Photograph by: Karen Guber



Mandy Schick takes a break and watches the game from a prime location.

Photograph by: Karen Guber



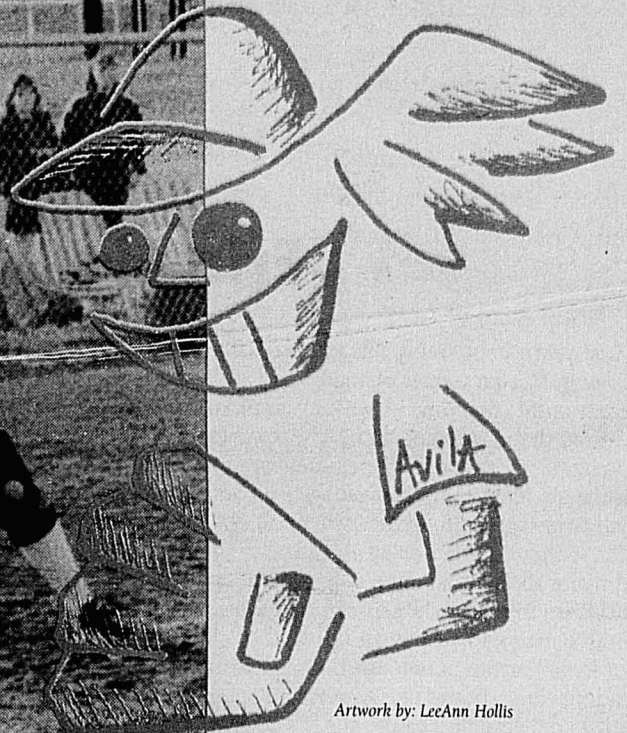
Zach Manning waits for the throw from first.

Photograph by: Karen Guber

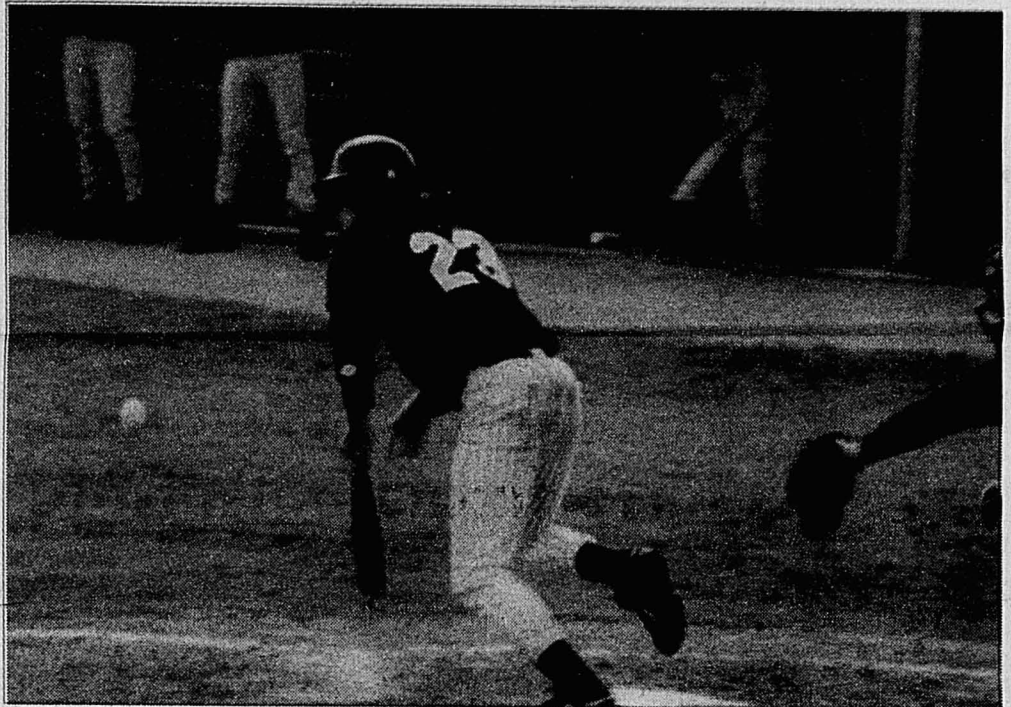


Becky Wywadis avoids getting hit by inside pitch.

Photograph by: Sara Maley

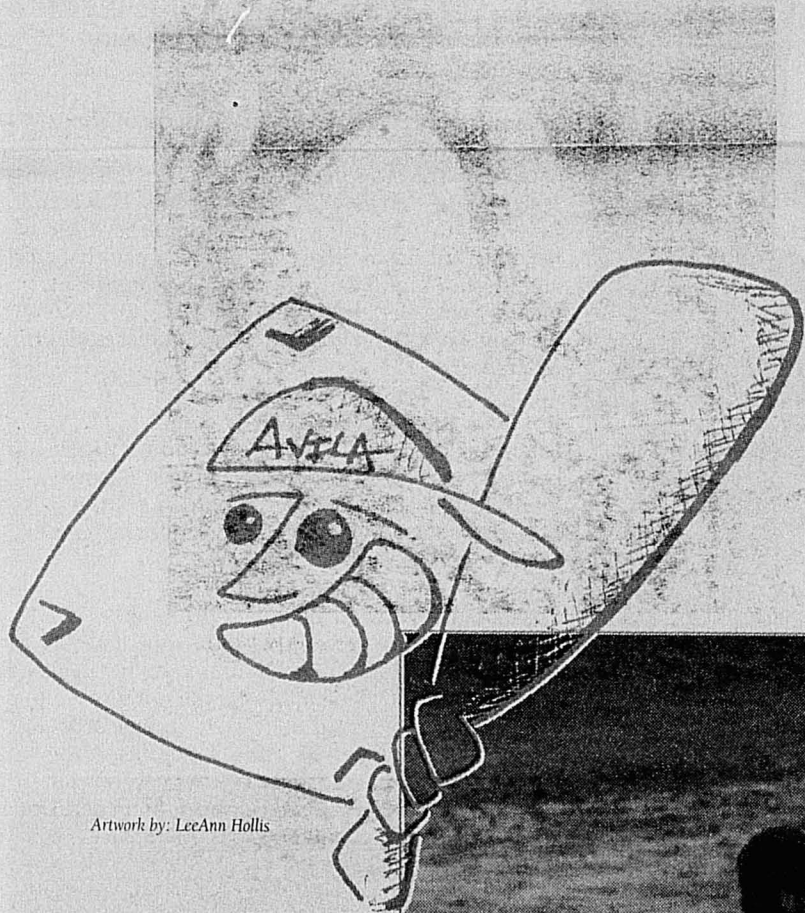


Artwork by: LeeAnn Hollis



Steve Prewitt takes a chance on a bunt.

Photograph by: Karen Guber



Artwork by: LeeAnn Hollis



Eric Walker shows the umpire the ball for the call.

Photograph by: Karen Guber

fashion SENSE
orial

by ROSSANA VALLAZZA

Staff Writer

Erin Hall

Last year I kept seeing this blonde girl all over campus. I would see her several times a day in Marian Center or the library and sometimes in the Quad area wearing a different outfit each time. It was not until last year when I had a class with her that I realized that it was not "her," it was a they!

Imagine my surprise when I met Sarah and Erin Hall for the first time. These two sisters are identical twins, yet they are very individual in their sense of fashion. The Hall twins agreed to share their sense of style with us.

So, without further delay, I present to you Erin Hall. This sophomore is an undecided major that has an interest in graphic art. She is a member of Avila's volleyball team and loves to read in her spare time. Working at an antique mall and carrying a full load of classes does not leave her much time for hobbies. Erin enjoys reading comic books like *X-men* and *Spiderman* as well as drawing and painting.

Rossana: What is your style?

Erin: My style is anything. It does not matter what decade as long as I like it. I dress how I feel that day. I try to coordinate an outfit with my mood. If I feel happy, I wear something bright. When I have stayed out late, it's jeans and a sweatshirt.

Rossana: Does your sister influence how you dress?

Erin: If I put on an outfit she hates, I change before going out. We share some of our clothes, but I buy what I like and she buys what she likes.

Rossana: What's your color of the moment?

Erin: Right now I love the hot pink color that is out. I bought three different sweaters in pink. One has the feathery stuff around the neck. I also love bright colors though, so green is a staple color. It is a big part of my wardrobe. If the same shirt in a store is put out in ten different colors-I go for the green shade usually.

Rossana: Where do you shop?

Erin: Everywhere from The Gap and Abercrombie to Gadzooks and thrift stores. It does not really matter. I do not have an absolute favorite store. Oak Park Mall is my favorite mall, but they do not have a Gadzooks.

Rossana: What do you have the most of in your wardrobe?

Erin: I love shoes. Last year I got rid of lots of pairs. I had around fifty pairs left, but I have more now—maybe 70! Some of the shoes can only be worn with one outfit, though. I also like leather, or the leather-look pants. They look good and fit well. I like to wear them out dancing. If I could own enough of them, I would wear a pair everyday! You can wear them over boots, of which I have six or seven pair. They are all different, though.

Rossana: What are your fashion faux pas?

Erin: Stone-washed jeans and jeans with elastic waistbands. They went out of style a long time ago, so do not wear them. Guys at our high school that had no fashion sense had elastic waistbands in their jeans. Also, wearing clothing that are too tight for your figure looks bad.

Sarah Hall

Identical twin Sarah Hall has taken some time out of her busy schedule to share her sense of fashion with us. Sarah is a sophomore and has not declared her major as of yet, although she is very interested in history and teaching. Most of her time is spent playing volleyball and helping coach the Avila team.

When she is not busy with sports Sarah attends various theatrical shows with her family. This summer, she plans on working at a local ice cream shop in her hometown of Grain Valley and working for the Census 2000.

Having an identical twin on campus has stirred up some confusion, but these sisters are easy going and have dealt with it all their lives. They may look the same, but they dress very differently. It is now Sarah's turn to share her style.

Rossana: Where do you like to shop?

Sarah: I like to shop at Gadzooks, The Gap, Buckle, Abercrombie and some thrift stores. Basically, it depends on where I find something. I am not all about one store. I especially like the St. Louis Galleria. We drive out there on an average three or four times a year. I enjoy the road trip over and the atmosphere once we are there. There is also a store on the outskirts of St. Louis called Splash. It is a retro store and carries clothing like the catalog Delia's.

Rossana: What is your style?

Sarah: I have many styles. My mood dictates my outfit for the day. If I have been typing a paper, I will wear wind pants, a sweatshirt, and tennis shoes. I never used to wear tennis shoes in high school. I love them now!

Rossana: Your sister has over 70 pairs of shoes. Do you?

Sarah: No, she has some crazy shoes whereas I have several shoes that go with a lot of outfits. However, I have recently started buying jeans since they have all been marked down. I have six or seven pair that are all different. I have flare leg, coveralls, cargo jeans, painter pants, dark jeans and light jeans too. You can have the same thing in a variety and it makes all the difference.

Rossana: What is your favorite color?

Sarah: Dark colors like black, gray and navy look best on me. I like bright colors, but I do not own a lot of them. Black used to be my favorite, but it is blue now. Blue was my high school color so I am used to wearing it.

Rossana: Do you and Erin ever dress alike?

Sarah: We used to dress alike all the time until the third or fourth grade. Our Mom used to buy us the same clothing, so we would wear the outfits on different days so we would not match. In high school we would sometimes wear the same outfits. Also, when we would go on family vacations we would take some matching outfits. However, Mom and Dad do not confuse us. Sometimes our grandparents still

confuse Erin and me!

Rossana: Share some of your fashion peeves and advice.

Sarah: Tight jeans and jeans that are too short bug me. Short shorts are also bad. They seem to get shorter every year! We all have our own backgrounds that influence what we wear, so we should be different. Do not follow the crowd and do not be afraid of criticism. When I see someone wearing an out of the way outfit, I commend them for being brave enough to wear it and not care what anyone thinks.

P.S., a final
farewell

by ERIN BARNES

Staff Writer

What started as a little after school fun turned out over a decade of fulfillment for a notable band.

At the center of the '90s, the rise of alternative music, Toad The Wet

Sprocket established themselves as a credible artistic band.

From their first performance at an open-mic talent show in September of 1986 to their last performance on New Year's Eve 1997, the band has entertained their audiences with the poetic intimacy of their low-key concerts.

With the closing of their most successful decade ever, the group has released their final album entitled *P.S. A Toad Retrospective*.

This CD includes 16 tracks, some which come from the bands' impressive former albums. Other tracks are previously unreleased new versions, remixes and edits.

Each song is an artistic masterpiece. The range of emotions displayed in each verse can be felt through the lyrics and the musical rhythm.

The band has stated that they have pursued their "creative impulses and

made music [they] believe in."

This is clearly evident because the artistic lyrics and instrumental melodies go together hand in hand.

The only downside to this album is that it is the last creative effort that will be put forth by the band, which proves an even better reason to buy this album.

On a scale of 1 to 10, I give this CD a 9.5.

Catholic church enters 1,000 year march

by PAUL OXLER
Staff Writer

The year 2000 seems to be one full of life, new found hope and many challenges still to overcome.

Before the dawn of 2000, there was talk about Y2K—the end of the world—but there was not much hype about what is in store for the Catholic Church.

Stated by the Vatican II council some 30 plus years ago, “The Roman Catholic Church is a pilgrim church; we are not finished, incomplete, but on the way.”

Before one can look into the future and predict what path the church will take, one must first look back into the past.

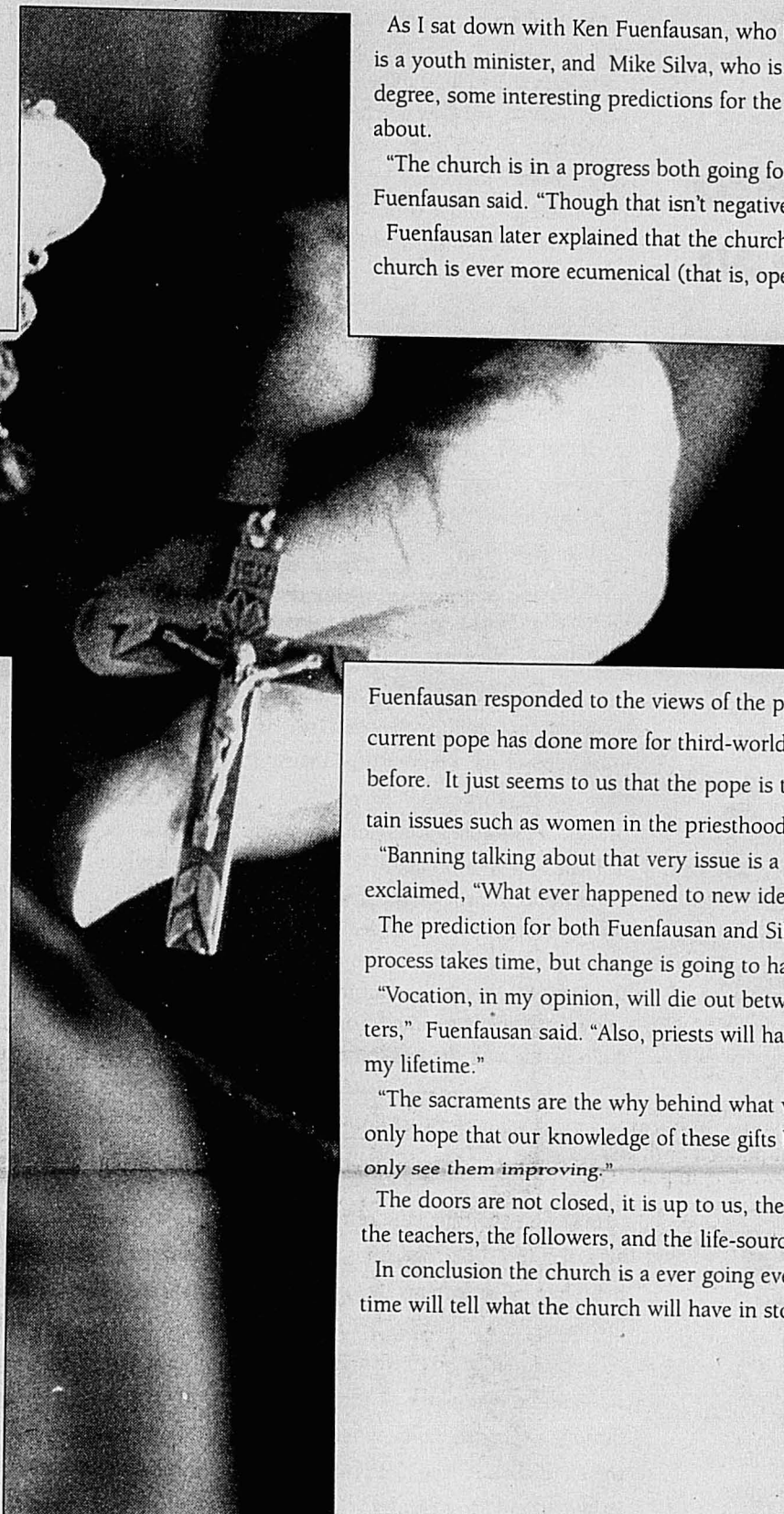
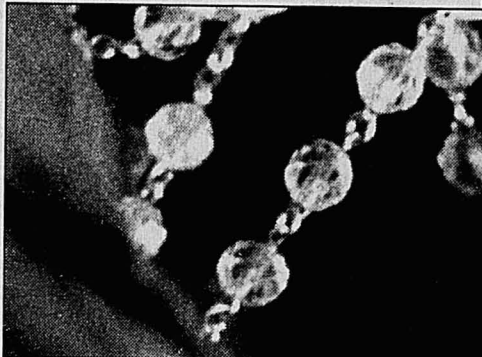
Vatican II claimed to be the most profound change in the 2000 years of the church.

The council touched on many issues such as sacraments, ecumenism, culture and the people of the church.

Before the Vatican II council, the church took the position that it is composed of the vocation people, including priests, brothers and sisters.

Also, the Catholic Church believes it is the right church and has the correct doctrine—claiming that the Catholic church is the only church of God. Finally, the Catholic church is never wrong.

After the meeting, the church's position on a lot of those very issues changed in a dramatic way. Vatican II was the turning point into the church of today.



As I sat down with Ken Fuenfausan, who has a Master's in theology and is a youth minister, and Mike Silva, who is studying to get his theology degree, some interesting predictions for the future of the church came about.

“The church is in a progress both going forward and backwards,” Fuenfausan said. “Though that isn't negative.”

Fuenfausan later explained that the church outreach is “fantastic.” The church is ever more ecumenical (that is, open to other religions and culture). On the other hand, the current pope is becoming more authoritarian and less open to change and new ways of thinking.

“I'm a progressive,” Silva said, “I want the church to be more open and honest with change.”

Both Silva and

Fuenfausan responded to the views of the pope in the same way. “The current pope has done more for third-world countries than any other before. It just seems to us that the pope is tightening the reins on certain issues such as women in the priesthood.”

“Banning talking about that very issue is a bit extreme,” Silva exclaimed, “What ever happened to new ideas?”

The prediction for both Fuenfausan and Silva is the same, the church process takes time, but change is going to happen.

“Vocation, in my opinion, will die out between the brothers and sisters,” Fuenfausan said. “Also, priests will have the option to marry in my lifetime.”

“The sacraments are the why behind what we do,” Fuenfausan said, “I only hope that our knowledge of these gifts burst with information. “I only see them improving.”

The doors are not closed, it is up to us, the people of the church to be the teachers, the followers, and the life-source of the church.

In conclusion the church is a ever going ever changing process. Only time will tell what the church will have in store.

The Millennium Series



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a newging tomorrow

F E A T U R E S

Denise Woods is unsung hero to education

by NIKKI BREVIG
Staff Writer

Her smile radiates through the darkened passages of the Hodes Education Department.

Denise Woods is not a typical Avila student. She is a full-time student, mother of three boys, works part-time and additionally works 30 hours in the education department.

She has become a master at juggling responsibilities. She is field placement coordinator for all the student teachers at Avila. It is not a small task staying on top of all the students and their districts, but through it all the smile remains. All of these things contributed to Laura Sloan choosing her as the education department's unsung hero.

Woods returned to school five years ago. She left school the first time after being married, but knew she always wanted to go back. It was a big decision

for her, since sons are now aged 10, 14 and 17.

She feels the guilt a mother feels not being able to spend as much time as she would like to with them, but they are very supportive of her. They are proud of her and she thinks some of the things she has learned in the classroom helps her to help them.

Her philosophy about education is probably most admirable. She is majoring in special education. She knew she

always wanted to teach children, and even as a teenager knew she wanted to help children with special needs. She said, "(Children) need a sense they can do anything they try to accomplish. If they do not feel like they can try, they will already have a harder time than they would otherwise." She wants to provide a classroom where children can feel safe and comfortable.

She wants to provide them with one-on-one attention, that she feels sometimes gets passed up because people are too busy. She hopes to combine the knowledge she has gained from her coursework with the passion she has for

teaching to make her classroom complete.

She feels the school systems are not as safe as they could be.

When asked about the recent school shootings, Woods said, "If we, as teachers, let safety concerns interfere with our jobs, who will teach the children? They still need to learn and be cared for." She can see security systems being implemented in every school all over the country, eventually.

Sloan nominated Woods as Avila's Unsung Hero because of her contributions to the education department. Sloan said, "(Denise) is working with students at a very important time in

their lives. She is gracious and always smiles." She is responsible for all the paperwork for student teachers.

Woods said she feels she is just a part of the team, and the department works as a whole. She said her favorite part of the job is getting everyone placed for the semester. She feels proud when they finish it all up and graduate.

Her least favorite part is when the students do not get things in on time. She said, "We can call them constantly, but

"Children need a sense they can do anything they try to accomplish. If they do not feel like they can try, they will already have a harder time than they would otherwise"



Photograph by: Denise Bradshaw

in the end it is still up to them."

As these words are being said, a student comes in with some papers she had been waiting on. Woods takes them with a smile and thanks her warmly. She will be going through this process of student teaching next spring. This will also be the same time her oldest boy will graduate from high school.

Debunking the Easter Bunny

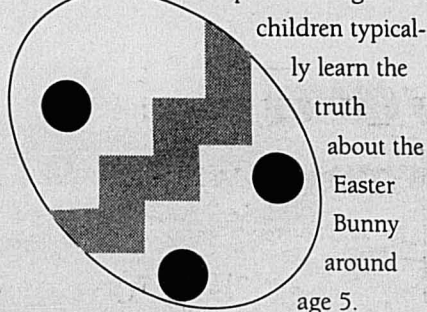
by COURTNEY JO CUTLER
Staff Writer

"He puts eggs all over your house while you sleep. Then he hops out and goes to another [house]." This is how 5-year-old Tanna Roberts explained the Easter Bunny.

According to Roberts, the Easter Bunny hides eggs filled with chocolate and other candy around her house. Then she and her twin sister Taylor begin their hunt.

While these are two typical young American children, their fantasy world is probably about to come to a halt.

According to psychology professor Stephen Sirridge



children typically learn the truth about the Easter Bunny around age 5. Sirridge explained that children between the ages of 2 and 4 spend about 80 percent of their time thinking in a fantasy world. The magic of the Easter Bunny is appealing.

However, when the children reach the ages of 5 to 7, "The fantasy is less riveting. They become more aware of the inconsistencies," Sirridge said.

The children begin to wonder, "Now how can he visit all the children?" Sirridge explained. Some wonder why there are not any factual pictures of the Easter Bunny. Most children, in fact, begin to question everything.

Many Americans continue the tradition of the Easter Bunny in their homes, but some have begun to worry that the tradition teaches children false information.

Many Internet sites hold discussion groups on the subject. Some parents claim that the Easter Bunny is just a fun tradition while others believe it is a harmful practice.

"I think the practice is very benign," Sirridge said. "I think the children basically come to their own truth about the existence of things."

Aside from being harmless, Sirridge thinks traditions such as the Easter Bunny allow for "incredible opportunities and wild possibilities to extend their imagination." He also said, "If there weren't these things, children would invent something [else] anyway."

Kindergarten teacher Colleen Markman also finds the tradition innocent.

With two boys of her own and 19

years of teaching experience behind her, she said, "Pretending is a skill they need to have. They need to know how to use their imaginations."

She concludes that carrying on these traditions helps the children expand their minds and imaginations. "This allows them to create pictures in their head, when they move to reading chapter books without pictures."

Markman also explained that children who do not believe in fantasies, such as the Easter Bunny, have a more pessimistic outlook on life. "They just do not have as much fun," Markman said.

In a news release posted on the Kansas State University web page, Tony Jurich, professor of family studies and human services, said, "All of these myths are part of the legacy that we had as children, that we pass onto our children. I do not find it tremendously detrimental. Talking to your children about the Easter Bunny lets you bring a little bit of your childhood into focus; lets you bring a little bit of who you are into play."

One Internet site, ParenthoodWeb.com, held a survey asking parents their opinion about the situation.

According to the survey, 50 percent of parents will let their children believe until they find out themselves. Another

30 percent of parents plan to let their children believe in the fantasy for a few years and then tell them.

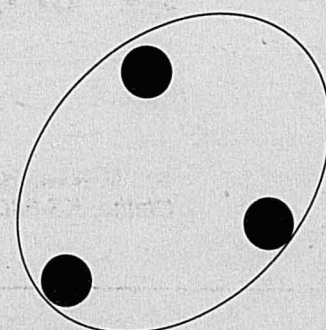
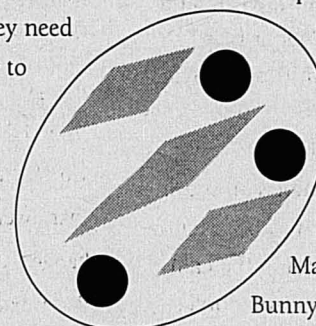
According to the Internet site Marvelicious, the Easter Bunny is not a new creation.

The symbolic bunny came from the pagan festival Eastre.

Eastre, with her unique spelling, was a goddess whose earthly symbol was a rabbit.

Other Easter sites claim that rabbits symbolize new life, and that the connection of the bunny with Easter originated in Germany around the 1500s.

Wherever the Easter Bunny began its tradition, Sirridge thinks that it will remain one. He said, "How nice to think about a bunny that hops around and leaves eggs and jelly beans."



Avila Ambassadors

by KRISTEN REESE

Features Editor

Avila is looking for friendly, outgoing individuals who want to make the college a better place. The Avila Ambassadors could be a very good place to start.

As an Ambassador, the individual will work with high school students and transfer students who are looking at Avila. "It is fun to get to know prospective students. I love the college, and it is nice to share that with other people. You also get to know the faculty and staff members," Sara Peters, Ambassadors President, said.

The duties of an Ambassador consist of giving tours to prospective students sending follow-up postcards and phone calls to prospective students, and assisting with special events and programs that the Admissions Office organizes. "We are always increasing visitors to campus. We have already done more tours this spring than in the past," Rebecca DeYoung, Ambassador adviser, said.

The qualities Avila is looking for in an Ambassador are responsibility and dependability. Students have to have at least a 2.5 GPA, and they have to have attended Avila College for one semester. "It is not a huge time requirement. You only have to give one tour a week, and attend a few meetings. Plus, it helps to learn tons of things about the campus," Peters said.

Some of the benefits to volunteering as an Ambassador are: learning communication skills; getting to know the faculty, staff and campus and helping the campus get the Avila name out to people.

"I think it benefits because you learn to handle yourself, you have to be professional. You always have to have your best foot forward because the Ambassadors represent Avila," DeYoung said.

The Ambassadors will provide the opportunity to meet many people and join in activities. "I wanted to help people decide what school to go to, the person who showed me around made a good impact on me. I wanted to do the same for others," Toby Gill, new Ambassador, said.

Student lose sleep in the fast lane

by SHIRLEY PHILLIPS

Staff Writer

"There are classes, study time, work and parties. Then there is that one weekend intensive class coming up that needs to fit into the schedule. On Monday there is that volunteer project to do. That will look good on the resume."

Does that sound familiar?

When is there time to sleep?

That is life in the fast lane, and it is taking a deadly toll on the highways.

The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports about 56,000 crashes annually in which driver drowsiness/fatigue was cited by police.

Roughly 40,000 were nonfatal injuries, and 1,550 fatal.

Sophomore Megan Redenbaugh recalls an accident involving her twin brother.

"He was on his way back to Rolla where he attended the University of Missouri-Rolla, which is about a four hour trip from our home in Belton, Mo." It was early on a Monday morning after he had been up late the night before.

"He fell asleep and rear-ended a car, which caused a four car pile up. Luckily, there were no injuries, just a few banged-up cars. His car was totaled," Redenbaugh said.

In 1996, the NHTSA, in collaboration with the National Center on Sleep Disorders Research (NCSDR), began a congressionally-mandated study to analyze the role of fatigue, sleep disorders and inattention in highway crashes.

The NCSDR stated that the group of young males they studies reported sleeping between five and seven hours per night, and were aware that drowsiness was a hazard when driving. However, they seemed to accept these risks as part of their chosen lifestyle and

appeared to be unwilling to change either sleep routines or driving behavior.

Sophomore Kara Anderson remembers a frightening incident from a few years ago involving one of her friends.

"He was driving back from his girlfriend's house sometime after midnight. He fell asleep and crashed his car. He

"He fell asleep and rearended a car, which caused a four car pile up. Luckily, there were no injuries, just a few banged-up cars."
-Megan Redenbaugh

now has lots of scars and was messed up for a long time."

Anderson's friend lived about 45 minutes away from her, and before coming to visit had worked a full day and then drove strait there. "He was bound to be totally exhausted, and I'm sure driving alone did not help," she said.

Anderson has had her own experience with driving without adequate rest.

"Many times I end up driving at night. I might be getting off work late or driving out of town for a visit," she said.

"Whenever I feel like I am going to fall asleep, I roll down the window and crank up the radio!"

Redenbaugh used similar methods when driving back from a skiing trip in Snow Creek.

"After being up for 24 hours, I had to drive home. I remember doing a lot of swerving on the highway and driving partially on the shoulder. I turned on the air conditioning, rolled down the windows, turned up the music and drank cappuccino."

According to the National Sleep Foundation (NSF), opening the car window, turning up the volume on the car radio and toughing it out do not help ease drowsiness away. Instead, the NSF offers the following list as a short-term

aid for combating drowsiness:

Avoid alcohol.

Make frequent stops at rest areas and full over at the first sign of fatigue. Take brisk walks, take a nap and drink caffeine.

Drive with someone else in the car.

This will allow both people to try to keep each other awake.

Let someone else drive who has had more sleep and who is more alert.

And finally, set reasonable travel objectives.

Most people are unaware that the sleepy driver is as potentially hazardous as a drunk driver.

When a person is excessively sleepy, abilities to think clearly and to react promptly are severely impaired. Combine that with alcohol, and that is a deadly mix, as stated in the NSF report on Safe Driving Tips.

Freshman Megan Bridge can identify with the NSF recommendations. She recalls a time when a person she knew in high school was in an automobile accident.

"The person is the wreck was a junior. She and her cousin had gone to a party," Bridge said. "She was driving home and fell asleep. She hit a tractor trailer parked along the road. Her cousin was killed instantly."

Statistics from the NHTSA indicated that in 1997, 3.2 percent of highway fatalities were sleep-related. They noted that in reality this number may be very high because many states do not list drowsiness as a cause of crashes.

April 2 is Sleep Awareness Day. It is also the day everyone sets their clocks back one hour in preparation for Daylight Savings Time. That will be the night that Americans will lose yet another hour of sleep.



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Picture perfect

by **MEGAN BRIDGE**
Staff Writer

A black and white photograph of the City Market area has garnered Ryo Suzuki a nation-wide contest win.

Each year, *Photographer's Forum*, a professional photography magazine, holds a nation-wide contest where the best college artists compete.

The magazine has over 20,000 entries, and the top six percent are published in an art publication. "This was my first contest," Suzuki said.

Suzuki's photograph will be published in an issue called *The Best of College Photography Annual*.

"This is a very important award," Art Director Susan Lawlor said. The students in the beginning photography class were assigned to take photos around the city. Then each student submitted three photographs to the contest.

"I received a letter from the contest telling me that my work had been chosen for the final selection. I was surprised when I found out the photo of the City Market was the one chosen," Suzuki said.

Suzuki is a graphic design major, but he enjoys taking pictures, developing film, and making prints. "I have never

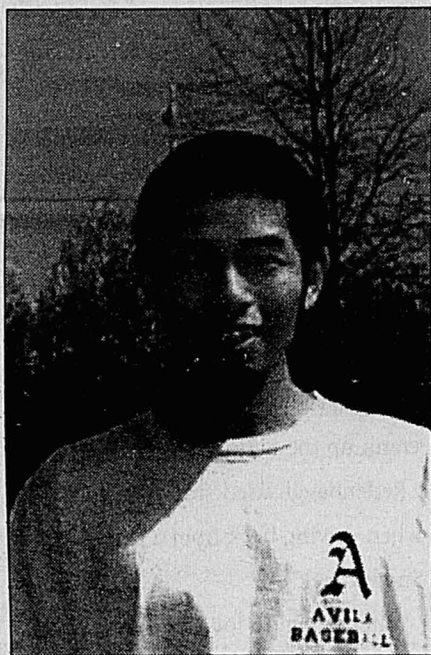
experienced photography before and this is my first class," Suzuki said.

"Suzuki has a real talent for photography," Lawlor said. Twenty-two-year-old Ryo Suzuki is far from home in Japan, but has made an impact at Avila, his home away from home.

People usually think a product is better if it is higher priced, not in this case. "I bought the cheapest camera," Suzuki said.

The photo of the City Market area is of an alley with tall office buildings in the background and the focus is concentrated on a clean deserted alley with fire escape stairways attached to older buildings.

After winning the contest, the thought of money came to his mind. "I think I can get big money for this photograph," he said with a smile.



Photograph by: Denise Bradshaw

Singing the praises of unsung hero Kami Johnson

by **NIKKI BREVIG**
Staff Writer

Kami Johnson hits notes like few others. She was nominated as an unsung hero by Carol Coburn for everything she has gone through and how she lives her life. Her commitment to God and everything she does makes her an Avila unsung hero.

Singing is an intricate part of her life.

Johnson is a junior majoring in music education. She sings with Avila College Singers. She works with her church choir and plays the organ there.

She began singing at the age of four, and by five-years-old had started playing the piano by ear. Every summer she attends the National Baptist Conference, a national youth event she participates in through her church. She has sung solo parts for choirs containing 4000 people. Some students at Avila have heard her hit those high notes when she has won the school's talent shows.

She would like to make a segue into the gospel industry. She says her path in life will be led by God. Johnson said, "I always consult God before I do anything, if you do not do that I find you are in a world of hurt." She also hopes to open an all-inclusive music store by the time she is 40-years-old. She notices there is not a music store of this kind in the metro area owned by a minority. Again she will leave her decision in the hands of God.

Family is very important to Johnson.

She has experienced death and sickness throughout her life. She lost her brother when she was in the eighth grade, and an aunt recently.

She said, "The more you experience, it does not make you immune, it makes you stronger." She tries to pattern her life after the examples set by her mother and grandmother. She said, "They led a virtuous life. No child would be embarrassed to say that was my mother." Her aunt recently passed away, but also impacted her life.

Her aunt believed in the village philosophy, that it takes a village to raise children. Johnson also finds this to be very important.

She always thinks of herself first and foremost as a Christian. Her words and actions reflect how spiritual she is. Her

church is an important aspect of her life. She feels the members there are her family as well.

She works with the children and has watched many become a part of her life. She

is involved as a missionary with the foreign mission. They help raise funds for children in Africa. When she was in high school she began a bible study class and created the Sold Out And Radical for Christ program.

Johnson is a very inspirational and busy person. She made a New Year's resolution to look after herself. She says that having so many things to do, she often neglects herself. Yet she is one of those people who has to be doing something.

She says in her spare time she enjoys writing poetry, going to the movies, and being with her friends.

She thinks of herself as a people person. She said, "I like for people to get along in harmony. It makes life so much easier."

"The more you experience, it does not make you immune, it makes you stronger"

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